

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 054218
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 054218

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINE FIVE PARA TWO OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR CVIS PLO SG US

SUBJECT: REPLY TO SENGHOR

REF: A) DAKAR 1637 ANDUB)STATE 50665

1. WHILE REFTTEL (B) TURNED DOWN IDEA SENGHOR HAD BRUITED OF ESTABLISHING PLO OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WE BELIEVE TONE OF LETTER IS RESPONSIVE. SECRETARY EXPRESSES HIS APPRECIATION TO SENGHOR FOR RAISING PLO ISSUE WITH US AND SECRETARY'S LETTER CONCLUDES WITH REITERATION OF THIS APPRECIATION AS WELL AS EXPRESSION OF HOPE SENGHOR WILL CONTINUE TO SHARE HIS THINKING WITH US. WE KNOW AMBASSADOR WHEN DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WILL STRESS POSITIVE ASPECTS OF SECRETARY'S REPLY.

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2. YOU MAY USE THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS CONCERNING THE SECRETARY'S RECENT TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE PRE-SENT STATUS OF DEVELOPMENTS THERE:(FYI:THESE POINTS HAVE BEEN PPRESENTED RECENTLY TO OFFICIALS IN SELECTED NEA COUNTRIES.)
--THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST ACHIEVED THE

LIMITEDBUT IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES THAT HAD BEEN SET FOR IT.
WE WANTED VERY MUCH TO CONVEY TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST
EAST THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE ARE APPROACHING THE
QUESTION OF A SETTLEMENT, AND WE FEEL THE TRIP SERVED THIS

PURPOSE. BEYOND THAT, IT WAS ITSELF THE FIRST STEP IN
THE PROCESS LOOKING TOWARD THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS
THIS YEAR. AS A RESULT OF THE TRIP, THE SECRETARY REACHED
A NUMBER OF TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS WHICH HE HAS CONVEYED
TO THE PRESIDENT AND WHICH WILL FORM A BASIS FOR OUR NEXT
MOVES IN THIS PROCESS.

-- IT EMERGED FROM THE MANY TALKS IN MIDDLE EAST CAPITALS
THAT, WHILE ARAB AND ISRAELI CONCEPTS OF PEACE REMAIN
QUITE FAR APART, THERE IS A CLEAR DETERMINATION TO MAKE A
SERIOUS EFFORT TO REACH A SETTLEMENT. THE SECRETARY FOUND
IN ALL THE GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY CONCERNED A GREAT DESIRE
TO BE RELIEVED OF THE IMMENSE BURDEN OF THEIR DEFENSE
ESTABLISHMENTS AND TO DEVOTE THEIR RESOURCES MORE FULLY TO
THE NEEDS OF THEIR PEOPLE.

-- MORE PARTICULARLY, THERE WAS A CONSENSUS AMONG ALL
CONCERNED THAT THEY SHOULD WORK TOWARD RECONVENING THE
GENEVA CONFERENCE IN THE SECOND HALF OF 1977. IT WAS
RECOGNIZED THAT MUCH GROUNDWORK NEEDS TO BE LAID BEFORE
SUCH A CONFERENCE CAN CONVENE WITH ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS,
AND THAT IT IS DESIRABLE FOR THE U.S. TO PLAY AN ACTIVE
ROLE IN THE PROCESS.

-- THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED ALSO AGREED THAT, IF THE
PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS CAN BE RESOLVED, THEY ARE PREPARED TO
GO TO GENEVA TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WITHOUT PRE-

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CONDITIONS.

-- THERE WAS A COMMON UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PRINCIPAL
SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ARE THE NATURE OF PEACE, THE WITHDRAWAL/
TERRITORIAL QUESTIONS, AND A SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN
PROBLEM.

-- THE PRINCIPAL PROCEDURAL ISSUE THAT MUST BE RESOLVED
BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS CAN BEGIN REMAINS THE QUESTION OF
PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.
THE SECRETARY WAS ENCOURAGED, HOWEVER, BY THE SERIOUSNESS
WITH WHICH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED ARE EXAMINING WAYS TO
OVERCOME THIS OBSTACLE AND IN PARTICULAR BY THE EFFORTS
UNDERWAY AMONG ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO WORK OUT A COMMON
POSITION THAT WILL FACILITATE A SOLUTION.

-- AS THE SECRETARY INDICATED DURING HIS TALKS, THE
PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTY IN THIS REGARD IS THE PALESTINIAN
POSITION, REFLECTED IN THEIR COVENANT, WHICH DOES NOT
ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE SET FORTH IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLU-
TIONS 242 AND 338 THAT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT MUST AMONG
OTHER THINGS RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE

WITHIN SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES FREE FROM THREATS
OR ACTS OF FORCE.

-- WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
ARAB GOVERNMENTS AS POSITIONS ON THIS ISSUE EVOLVE.

-- THE NEXT STEPS AFTER THE SECRETARY'S VISIT ARE THE
WELCOMING OF PM RABIN IN WASHINGTON FOR A VISIT, WHICH
HAS JUST BEEN CONCLUDED, AND OF ARAB LEADERS EARLY NEXT
MONTH BEGINNING WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT.

VANCE

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